

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 011340Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8134

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 0923

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PDEV, MI, MZ, ZA, TZ

SUBJ: SIGNS OF UNEASE IN GOM

1. THE NEW FRELIMO REGIME IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THE RECENT NEW ECONOMIC ORDER ANNOUNCED BY KAUNDA FOR ZAMBIA EFFECTIVELY SURROUND MALAWI WITH ECONOMIES WHICH ARE THE ANTITHESIS OF BANDA'S VERSION OF CAPITALISM AND IN OTHER WAYS REFLECT A QUITE DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHY. TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE ARE PRIVATELY CONSIDERED TO BE UNFRIENDLY NEIGHBORS DESPITE PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS HERE TO THE CONTRARY. ALL THREE COUNTRIES HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND RED CHINA WHEREAS MALAWI NOT ONLY DOES NOT BUT MAINTAINS RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, ISRAEL, AND SOUTH AFRICA.

2. RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SIGNS THAT THE GOM IS FEELING THE PRESSURE. LAST WEEKEND WE LEARNED OF AT LEAST SEVEN CIVIL SERVANTS (AND ONE REPORT WAS OF 23) WHO WERE RELIEVED OF THEIR JOBS AND HAVE BEEN SENT TO THEIR VILLAGES TO RESIDE--VILLAGE ARREST. THE ONLY ROUGH COMMON DENOMINATORS AMONG THOSE AFFECTED SEEM TO BE ANGLICAN BACKGROUND, MOZAMBIQUAN FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND IN SOME CASES BRIEF DETENTIONS IN THE PAST BASED ON ACCUSATIONS

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OF ASSOCIATION OR CONTACT WITH THE DISSIDENT MINISTER, PARTICULARLY

CHIPEMBERE.

3. LAST WEEK ALSO, FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS INVITED ME TO HIS OFFICE AND ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE AND SAID HE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ANYTHING I COULD GIVE HIM RE ATTITUDES THERE TOWARD MALAWI. A SIMILAR REQUEST WAS RECENTLY MADE TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE BY THE CIC OF THE MALAWI ARMY WHO DESCRIBED MALAWI AS BEING "SURROUNDED".

4. YESTERDAY IN A LONG PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE GOVERNOR OF THE RESERVE BANK, JOHN TEMBO, HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AS TO WHAT THE FUTURE BODES FOR MALAWI. HE SPECULATED WHETHER MALAWI CAN WITHSTAND THE PRESSURES BUILDING UP AND SAID WHAT A SHAME IT WOULD BE IF ALL THE SOUND STRUCTURE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT WHICH MALAWI HAS ACHIEVED UNDER BANDA'S LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE DESTROYED. SOMEWHAT BITTERLY, HE CITED MALAWI'S ANTI-COMMUNIST STANCE AND ALIGNMENT WITH THE WEST, CONTRARY TO ITS THREE NEIGHBORS, AND ASKED WHY THE USG COULD NOT MAKE A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT LOAN TO SHOW SUPPORT AND TO PROVIDE THE EQUITY FOR THE VIPYA PAPER PULP PROJECT.

5. RUMORS ARE BEGINNING TO SPREAD--A FORCE OF 500 REBELS HAVE BEEN LANDED IN THE NORTH; CHIPEMBERE IS IN MOZAMBIQUE, ETC.

6. COMMENT. TO US, MALAWIAN CONCERN IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE. MOREOVER, DESPITE THE DESPOTIC NATURE OF HIS REGIME THERE IS NO DENYING BANDA'S REAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. IT WOULD BE A PITY TO SEE THE PRESENT MOMENTUM LOST OR THE PRESENT STRUCTURE RADICALLY ALTERED. WE PRESUME HIS MOST LIKELY SUPPORT FROM HIS NEIGHBORS WOULD BE PRES KAUNDA AND WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT IN THE END THE NEIGHBORS MAY DECIDE JUST TO IGNORE BANDA AND LET HIM REMAIN THE "ODD MAN OUT," AS HE LIKES TO CALL HIMSELF, PROVIDED HE REMAINS QUIET AND COOPERATIVE.

7. WITH REGARD TO TEMBO'S PITCH FOR VIPYA I WAS, OF COURSE, NON-COMMITTAL AND DISCOURAGING. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME THAT HE WAS VISUALIZING A USG INVESTMENT OF THIS MAGNITUDE AS A TYPE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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INSURANCE AGAINST OVERTHROW OF THE REGIME BY RADICALS AND A SOURCE OF PRESSURE ON MOZAMBIQUE TO MAKE SURE OF ACCESS TO THE PORT OF NACALA.

8. IF THE NEIGHBORS SHOULD DECIDE BANDA MUST GO, THE GEO-POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCE ALONE ARE SUCH WE CAN SEE NO POSSIBILITY OF SUCCOR.

9. CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER CHIPEMBERE HAS LEFT THE U.S.?
STEVENSON

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NNN

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